



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Iain Lees-Galloway	<b>Portfolio</b>	Immigration
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Options for changes to the Parent Resident Visa (Parent Category)	<b>Date to be published</b>	31 October 2019

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
16 September 2019	Options for changes to the Parent Resident Visa (Parent Category) (Paper to Cabinet 16 September 2019)	Office of the Minister of Immigration
16 September 2019	Cabinet Minute CAB-19-MIN-0469 Parent Resident Visa (Parent Category): Proposed Changes	Secretary of the Cabinet
18 September 2019	Options for changes to the Parent Resident Visa (Parent Category) (Paper to DEV 18 September 2019)	Office of the Minister of Immigration
18 September 2019	Cabinet Economic Development Committee Minute DEV-19-MIN-0257 Parent Resident Visa (Parent Category): Proposed Changes	Committee Secretary

### Explanatory note

On 16 September 2019, the paper *Options for changes to the Parent Resident Visa (Parent Category)* was taken to Cabinet.

Cabinet referred the Paper to the Cabinet Economic Development (DEV) Committee and invited the Minister of Immigration to provide further advice to DEV on the financial and eligibility settings for the policy. Cabinet authorised DEV to have Power to Act to take decisions on the paper.

On 18 September 2019, an updated version of the paper *Options for changes to the Parent Resident Visa (Parent Category)* was taken to DEV, which agreed to re-commence Parent Category Expressions of Interest selections under new settings.

**Information redacted****YES**

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Constitutional Conventions



# Cabinet Economic Development Committee

## Minute of Decision

*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

### Parent Resident Visa (Parent Category): Proposed Changes

**Portfolio**                      **Immigration**

On 18 September 2019, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee, having been authorised by Cabinet to have Power to Act [CAB-19-MIN-0469]:

1        **noted** that the Parent Category Resident Visa:

1.1        allows New Zealand residents and citizens to sponsor their migrant parents for residence in New Zealand, subject to financial requirements and a 10 year undertaking to cover their parents' accommodation and living costs;

1.2        is capped at a maximum of 2,000 people per annum, with demand managed through a two-tier expression of interest system where Tier One expressions of interest are selected first to apply for resident visas on a first-in, first-served basis;

1.3        has been closed to new selections, with no new expressions of interest having been selected for processing since October 2016;

2        **agreed** to resume the selection of Parent Resident Visa Category Expressions of Interest, and to set the annual cap of individual Parent Residence Visa Category approvals at 1,000 people per annum;

3        **agreed** that the Minister of Immigration amend the Parent Category's policy settings as follows:

3.1        dis-establish the Tier Two sub-category;

3.2        increase and index the benchmarked financial requirements for the Parent Category to the following levels:

Sponsor/applicant requirement	Benchmark
Income from one sponsor	If sponsoring one parent - indexed to 2 times the New Zealand median income If sponsoring two parents - indexed to 3 times the New Zealand median income
Joint income from one sponsor and their partner/spouse (if partner also meets 3 years residence/citizenship requirement)	If sponsoring one parent - indexed to 3 times the New Zealand median income If sponsoring two parents - indexed to 4 times the New Zealand median income

- 3.3 abolish the settlement fund financial eligibility criteria and the guaranteed lifetime income of the applicants criteria;
  - 3.4 require sponsors to provide evidence of their annual income through Inland Revenue tax statements;
  - 3.5 require sponsors to demonstrate that they meet the income criteria for two out of the three years prior to the applicant lodging their application for residence to confirm they have the means to support their parents;
  - 3.6 formally link the duration of the sponsorship period at the total number of years required for the residence eligibility criteria for New Zealand Superannuation (excluding the requirement that five of those years be while the parent is over 50 years of age) regardless of whether the applicant may meet the New Zealand Superannuation eligibility requirements in a shorter period of time;
- 4 **agreed** that eligibility for the Parent Visa Category be limited to the parents of any New Zealand citizen or resident who meets the specified income threshold requirement (individually or jointly) and all other requirements to act as a sponsor;
- 5 **agreed** to the following settings for the above changes:
- 5.1 the increased financial and evidential requirements will apply to all parent migrant applicants who have already lodged an expression of interest, as well as any new applicants;
  - 5.2 all applicants with queued Parent Category expressions of interest will be invited to update their expressions of interest to show they meet the new criteria before their expression of interest is considered for selection;
- 6 **invited** the Minister of Immigration to amend Immigration Instructions to give effect to the above decision;

**Financial implications**

- 7 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decisions in paragraph 2 above:

Vote Immigration Minister of Immigration	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 & Out-years
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Immigration services MCA Departmental Output Expense: Assessment and Processing Services	0.500	-	-	-	-

- 8 **agreed** that the change to appropriations for 2019/20 above be included in the 2019/20 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply;

- 9 **agreed** that the expenses incurred above be funded from other immigration fee payers with no impact on the operating balance, but a corresponding negative impact on the immigration fees memorandum account.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

---

**Present:**

Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)  
Hon Phil Twyford  
Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Hon Carmel Sepuloni  
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway  
Hon Damien O'Connor  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Willie Jackson  
Hon James Shaw  
Hon Eugenie Sage

**Hard-copy distribution:**

Minister of Immigration

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for DEV

PROACTIVELY RELEASED